

# OCTOBER

Children love Halloween; they get to dress up and eat candy. What else could a child ask for in a holiday? Although it's fun, there are some common sense tips to keep your children safe during this yearly tradition.



- Get on the internet and check the local state website sex offender registry list. The state of Utah has a list of offenders by zip code. Make sure that your children stay away from these houses.
- Know the route your children will be taking if you aren't going Trick-or-Treating with them and check in with them periodically.
- Know what other activities a child may be attending, such as parties, school or mall functions. If they are going to be at a friend's home, get the phone number and make sure that you've met the parents.
- Help your young child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make sure that it's fire proof or treated with fire retardant. If they are wearing a mask of any kind, make sure that the eye holes are large enough for good peripheral vision.
- Explain to children of all ages that vandalism and animal cruelty are not acceptable Halloween activities and can be punishable by law.
- Make sure to check your children's candy before they dig in.
- Teach your kids about not getting into cars with strangers or talking to those they don't know – even if they seem friendly, ask for help, or know the child's name. They should never go into the house of a person they don't know. Also, tell them what they should do if a stranger takes them- scream as loud as possible to attract attention and to run away as fast as they can to someplace safe.
- Be sure your children know how to cross the street properly.

**For more tips visit:**

<http://www.cdc.gov/family/halloween/>

(ADD PDF of CDC handout as well)

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